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Compilation on Ghana

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[1, 2]

2. In 2016, the Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.[3]

3. The United Nations country team noted that Ghana had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in September 2016.[4]

4. In 2015, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana expedite the ratification of the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.[5] It also recommended that it consider ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),[6] that it ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,[7] the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[8] and that it consider acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.[9]

5. The United Nations country team noted that Ghana had pledged to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions at the Ministerial Conference on Statelessness in Abidjan on 23 February 2015.[10] The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) recommended that Ghana accede to the 1954 Convention and the 1961 Convention by the end of 2017.[11]

6. In 2014, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention[12] and urged Ghana to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.[13]

7. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment recommended that Ghana ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and expedite the ratification of the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[14]

8. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, recommended that Ghana ratify and/or adopt implementing legislation with regard to the 1926 Slavery Convention, the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention.[15]

9. UNHCR noted that Ghana had signed the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention), but that the Convention had not yet been ratified by Parliament.[16]

10. In 2014, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families invited Ghana to consider acceding to the ILO Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97) and Domestic Workers Convention.[17]

III. National human rights framework[18]

11. The United Nations country team noted that, in January 2017, the President had stated that the constitutional review process, which had started in 2010, would continue in line with his governance reform agenda.[19]

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination[20]

12. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its previous recommendations that Ghana extend free birth registration and issuance of certificates for, at least, children under 5 years of age, and reach universal coverage for registration of children in rural areas, asylum-seeking and refugee children.[21] The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[22]

13. The Committee on Migrant Workers urged Ghana to ensure that all migrant workers and members of their families within its territory or subject to its jurisdiction enjoyed, without discrimination, the rights recognized in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in accordance with article 7 thereof.[23]

14. The Human Rights Committee was concerned by the stigmatization of and discrimination against persons with albinism. It recommended that Ghana ensure that persons with albinism were protected against discrimination.[24]

15. The United Nations country team stated that some particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, drug users, prisoners and stateless or unregistered people, needed special support and protection in order to enjoy equal rights and hence not to be left behind in the pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other national goals.[25] The Human Rights Committee stated that Ghana should take the steps necessary to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons against all forms of discrimination and violence.[26]

2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights[27]

16. The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises recommended that Ghana integrate the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into all relevant policies, including the planned corporate social responsibility policy.[28]

17. On the extractives sector, the Working Group recommended that Ghana review the assessment regulations of its Environmental Protection Agency so as to incorporate impact assessments on all internationally recognized human rights, and require human rights due diligence prior to commencing licensing.[29] It also urged Ghana to consider and implement as a matter of priority measures to combat corruption.[30] The United Nations country team stated that Ghana had increased its capacity for transparency in the management of public affairs by adopting in July 2014 the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan.[31]

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person[32]

18. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana pursue efforts to abolish the death penalty.[33] The Special Rapporteur on torture made similar recommendations, and recommended that Ghana commute all outstanding death sentences to term sentences.[34]

19. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about reports of excessive use of force and unlawful killings by law enforcement and security personnel. It recommended that Ghana establish an independent mechanism to carry out investigations of alleged misconduct by police officers and ensure that the law and practice were in accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.[35]

20. The Special Rapporteur on torture recommended that Ghana establish a national preventive mechanism on combating torture and reminded Ghana to introduce the offence of torture in national criminal legislation and strengthen legal safeguards against torture and other ill-treatment.[36] The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[37]

21. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana ensure that confessions obtained in violation of article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were not used or accepted by courts under any circumstances and that officials extracting confessions under torture were investigated and prosecuted.[38] The Special Rapporteur on torture made similar recommendations.[39]

22. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana improve the conditions of persons held in custody and address prison overcrowding. It also recommended that Ghana establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture and a mechanism for receiving and processing complaints lodged by detainees.[40]

23. The Special Rapporteur on torture urged Ghana to establish an independent body under the Ministry of Health to improve the quantity and quality of the food available in detention, and to provide detainees with the minimum acceptable amount of space per inmate, separate beds and adequate sanitary conditions.[41] He also recommended that Ghana undertake the comprehensive reforms contemplated by the strategic plan of the Ghana Police Service regarding conditions of detention and the delivery of services in prisons.[42]

24. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at reports of inadequate treatment of mental health patients in public psychiatric institutions and at poor conditions, overcrowding and low levels of staffing in public psychiatric hospitals. It recommended that Ghana ensure the implementation of the Mental Health Act, including through the adoption of legislative instruments, and the recruitment of qualified mental health professionals.[43] The United Nations country team made similar remarks.[44]

25. The Special Rapporteur on torture recommended that Ghana provide access to legal aid and establish a complaints mechanism and a remedy for cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in psychiatric hospitals and that it prohibit non-consensual treatment in psychiatric institutions and prayer camps.[45]

26. The Human Rights Committee was concerned at the existence of unregistered private "prayer camps" to deal with illness, particularly mental illness, which operated with little oversight and no State regulation.[46] It recommended that Ghana prohibit non-consensual psychiatric treatment, such as forced medication and confinement.[47]

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law[48]

27. The United Nations country team indicated that the United Nations was working with the Government to strengthen the functioning of key institutions within the legal and justice sector, to reduce inefficiencies, expand accessibility, improve the quality of services, and overcome delayed dispensation of justice especially for the vulnerable. Improvements in those areas would improve public confidence.[49]

28. The Special Rapporteur on torture urged Ghana to guarantee the right to a lawyer in all circumstances, to ensure that all detained persons were granted the possibility of challenging the lawfulness of their detention[50] and to ensure that complaint procedures and mechanisms were adequate.[51] He recommended that courts be obliged to launch ex officio investigations whenever there were reasonable grounds to suspect torture or ill-treatment,[52] and that Ghana ensure that victims obtained redress and fair compensation for violations of their rights.[53]

29. The United Nations country team indicated that homosexual sex between consenting adults had not been decriminalized in Ghana.[54] The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana ensure that sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex were not punishable by law.[55] The United Nations country team stated that sexual minorities often chose to avoid the justice system, even to bring charges of assault or harassment or of police brutality, out of fear of punishment or outing. Abuse of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex prisoners was a concern, exacerbated by prison overcrowding and reluctance to report abuse for fear of reprisals and further stigmatization.[56]

30. The Committee on Migrant Workers urged Ghana to investigate, prosecute and punish all acts of trafficking in persons, and deal expeditiously with cases filed against traffickers and human smugglers.[57]

31. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana ensure access to courts and provide adequate funding to the Legal Aid Scheme.[58]

32. The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises recommended that Ghana ensure that the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice had adequate resources to implement its mandate and to serve as an effective alternative dispute resolution mechanism for addressing business impacts on human rights.[59]

33. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana conduct awareness-raising programmes to increase women's legal literacy and eliminate the stigmatization of women who claimed their rights.[60]

34. The Committee on Migrant Workers urged Ghana to ensure that migrant workers and members of their families, including those in an irregular situation, had equal opportunities to nationals to file complaints and obtain redress in the courts.[61]

35. The Special Rapporteur on slavery, including its causes and consequences, urged Ghana to amend the Criminal Code to ensure protection from sexual exploitation of all children without exception, and adopt effective legal measures against the use, offering or procurement of children for illicit activities.[62]

36. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Ghana to bring its juvenile justice system into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant standards.[63]

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[64]

37. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Ghana to introduce a freedom of information law and decriminalize defamation, placing it within a Civil Code in accordance with international standards.[65]

38. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana expedite the enactment of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Bill establishing a quota of 40 per cent for the representation of women in Parliament and public administration.[66] The United Nations country team indicated that socioeconomic and cultural issues and a lack of accountability within political parties were among the key challenges to increasing women's political participation.[67]

39. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Ghana guarantee to migrant workers and members of their families the right to form and be a member of the executive bodies of associations and unions for the promotion and protection of their interests.[68] It also encouraged Ghana to ensure the implementation of the right to vote for Ghanaian migrant workers residing abroad.[69]

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery[70]

40. The Committee on Migrant Workers urged Ghana to enforce the Human Trafficking Act and the Immigration Amendment Act, and allocate sufficient resources to combat trafficking in persons, human smuggling and other irregular migration.[71] The Special Rapporteur on slavery,[72] the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women[73] and the Committee on the Rights of the Child[74] made similar recommendations.

41. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations encouraged the Government to allocate the financial resources necessary for the effective functioning of the labour inspection system.[75]

5. Right to privacy and family life[76]

42. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana adopt expeditiously the Property Rights of Spouses Bill, 2009, so that equal distribution of property rights covered women, regardless to the type of marriage or de facto union.[77]

43. The Committee recommended that Ghana ensure that all religious and customary marriages were systematically registered.[78] The Special Rapporteur on slavery made a similar recommendation.[79]

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[80]

44. The ILO Committee of Experts asked the Government to take the necessary measures to amend sections 10 (b) and 68 of the Labour Act of 2003, in order to give full legislative expression to the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value, and to provide information on any progress made in that regard.[81]

2. Right to social security[82]

45. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Ghana ensure that all migrant workers and members of their families were able to subscribe to a social security scheme and enter into social security agreements.[83]

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Ghana provide a regulatory framework for the informal sector, with a view to providing women with access to social security and to basic safety services.[84]

3. Right to an adequate standard of living[85]

47. The United Nations country team indicated that the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty cash transfer social security programme covered families with pregnant women and infants especially. Despite its impressive expansion, the programme only covered one in eight poor households that had very little access to social protection. Poverty had seen a sharp reduction in recent years, although progress had slowed substantially.[86] The United Nations country team stated that the right to housing and protection of rights of urban slum dwellers was an ongoing challenge in Ghana, with growing rates of urbanization. Informality and inequality had intensified in cities, resulting in the growth of populations living in slums, and the rate of urbanization continued to outpace expansion of basic public services. Urban development and housing policies had been adopted with attention currently turning to their implementation, which provided opportunities to focus attention on environmental resilience and on human rights protection for all urban residents. Recent efforts in Accra on urban flood control and waterway management had not taken fully into account the right to adequate housing, resulting in some forced evictions without effective notice and displacements without adequate tracing mechanisms and resettlement plans affecting urban minorities.[87]

48. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the widespread poverty and illiteracy among rural women and their exclusion from decision-making processes. It recommended that Ghana ensure the removal of obstacles to landownership by women and the enforcement of the land and property rights of women by national courts.[88]

49. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana strengthen measures for fulfilling children's rights in the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan, including by holding targeted consultations with families, children and civil society organizations, and that it accelerate the expansion of the national cash transfer programme.[89]

4. Right to health[90]

50. The United Nations country team stated that national budget constraints and procurement challenges were constricting health service delivery and jeopardizing the quality and quantity of health care, resulting also in shortages of essential HIV, tuberculosis and malaria commodities.[91]

51. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana adopt a sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents, and develop a policy to protect the rights of pregnant teenagers, adolescent mothers and their children and combat discrimination against them.[92] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made similar recommendations.[93]

52. The Human Rights Committee, [94] the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women [95] and the Committee on the Rights of the Child [96] recommended that Ghana increase efforts to reduce maternal mortality resulting from unsafe abortions.

53. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana operationalize the national newborn strategy and action plan, reduce mortality rates by improving prenatal care and preventing communicable diseases and allocate resources to health services, particularly child health and nutrition.[97]

54. The United Nations country team indicated that, reportedly, people with mental illnesses were often treated as if they had no free will and that the practice of leaving family members at prayer camps (or so-called "witch camps") continued. There continued to be reports of abuse and exercise of unreasonable force in prayer camps and in psychiatric hospitals and several cases of the police using unreasonable force and of prisoners not being assigned psychiatric assessments.[98] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Ghana to collect disaggregated data about women's mental health and include in its forthcoming periodic report information on the progress made in implementing the Mental Health Act, 2012.[99]

55. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana address the incidences of drug use by children and adolescents by, inter alia, providing children and adolescents with information on substance abuse, and develop youth-friendly drug dependence treatment.[100] The Committee remained concerned about the high prevalence rate of HIV and the high rate of child mortality due to AIDS, and recommended that Ghana improve treatment for mothers living with HIV/AIDS and their children.[101]

5. Right to education[102]

56. The United Nations country team indicated that Ghana had achieved the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education and that improving education quality was a priority. The lack of appropriate sanitation facilities in the majority of schools had contributed to the school dropout rate. Overall, the lack of affordable education opportunities for adolescent girls was a key causal factor of early marriage. The United Nations country team commended the commitment of the Government to extend access to free senior high school for all students starting from September 2017, a measure that would require substantial investments in teacher training, school facilities, equipment and the curriculum to increase the quality and availability of education at that level. The United Nations country team insisted that implementation of that policy should include refugees.[103]

57. UNESCO stated that children continued to engage in hazardous labour, which affected their ability to enjoy their right to education. Ghana should be encouraged to further address and eliminate harmful practices, including but not limited to child labour and child marriage, and to continue to raise public awareness on their negative consequences and on the importance of education. National efforts towards increasing educational opportunities for all and addressing the quality of education, in line with Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals on quality education, needed support to generate long-term improvements.[104]

58. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that a significant proportion of children living in rural areas, children with disabilities, children from poor households, working children, orphaned children and children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS were deprived of their right to education. It recommended that Ghana take targeted measures to ensure free primary education for them.[105] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made similar recommendations.[106]

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women[107]

59. The United Nations country team stated that positive institutional developments for gender equality had included the adoption of the Gender Policy in 2015 and cabinet approval of the Affirmative Action Bill, which was before Parliament. It had been working with the relevant ministries on the implementation plans to ensure that the legislation achieved the desired impact.[108] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requested that Ghana adopt its Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Bill and ensure that it included a definition of discrimination in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[109]

60. UNESCO stated that several important issues, including forced and early marriage, early pregnancy and other harmful practices disproportionally affecting women, needed to be adequately addressed by Ghana.[110]

61. The Special Rapporteur on slavery urged Ghana to adopt into law a spousal property regime consistent with international standards and the equal rights of spouses, as a matter of priority.[111] The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[112]

62. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Ghana to ensure the effective implementation of the 2007 Domestic Violence Act, including by adopting enabling legislation, and to increase the resources for the implementation of the National Policy.[113]

63. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about the persistence of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, *trokosi* (ritual servitude), forced early marriage, witchcraft accusations and polygamy. It recommended that Ghana strengthen its awareness-raising and education programmes, prevent and eradicate harmful traditional practices and ensure that victims had access to remedies, protection and rehabilitation mechanisms.[114] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women[115] and the Special Rapporteur on slavery expressed similar concerns.[116]

64. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the persistence of violence against women, including rape, sexual harassment in school, in the workplace and in the public sphere, early and forced marriages, domestic violence and female genital mutilation. It called upon Ghana to intensify efforts to prevent and punish all forms of violence against women and girls by ensuring that complaints were investigated and that perpetrators were brought to justice.[117] The Special Rapporteur on slavery made similar recommendations.[118]

65. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the high number of cases of violence against girls and older women alleged to be witches, who sought refuge in so-called "witch camps", often under difficult living conditions. It called upon Ghana to ensure the swift closure of all remaining witch camps and that alleged witches and girls in such camps were provided with adequate rehabilitation, safe reinsertion into their communities or with alternative housing, livelihood options, high-quality education and vocational training.[119] The Committee on the Rights of the Child made similar recommendations.[120]

2. Children[121]

66. The United Nations country team noted that Ghana still had very high rates of violence, abuse and exploitation of children. Adolescent girls continued to face risks of child marriage and adolescent boys were increasingly participating in unsafe migration.[122]

67. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its previous recommendation that Ghana amend all legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment, and strengthen awareness-raising and education programmes for preventing and combating corporal punishment.[123] The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations.[124] The Special Rapporteur on torture also made similar recommendations and urged Ghana to amend the Children's Act (1988) to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings.[125]

68. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its previous recommendation that Ghana establish a national database on all cases of domestic violence against children and child abuse and undertake a comprehensive assessment of the phenomenon.[126]

69. The same Committee was concerned about the prevalence of the *trokosi* practice, especially in rural and traditional communities, and the fact that no cases had been reported and investigated. It urged Ghana to prevent and eliminate the practice, in particular to ensure the immediate release of children subjected to the practice, and ensure that cases of *trokosi* were investigated, protective mechanisms to safeguard children were established and all victims of the practice had access to social, medical and rehabilitative services and legal redress.[127] The Special Rapporteur on slavery made similar recommendations.[128]

70. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned about the fact that sexual exploitation of children, particularly commercial sexual exploitation, was growing. It recommended that Ghana establish mechanisms, procedures and guidelines to ensure mandatory reporting of cases of child sexual exploitation and amend legislation to ensure that all children subject to any form of sexual exploitation were treated as victims and not subject to criminal sanctions.[129]

71. The same Committee recommended that Ghana ensure the implementation of the legal prohibition of hazardous child labour and mining work for anyone under 18, and ensure the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, including the application of high penalties foreseen in legislation to those who exploited children.[130] The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises[131] and the ILO Committee of Experts[132] made similar recommendations. The Human Rights Committee made similar recommendations and urged Ghana to eliminate child labour, in particular by strengthening public awareness-raising campaigns in that regard. Moreover, it recommended that Ghana investigate cases of the worst forms of child labour, bring alleged perpetrators to justice and ensure that all victims were adequately protected, assisted, rehabilitated and compensated.[133]

72. The Special Rapporteur on slavery urged Ghana to mandate a special commission to investigate the dire situation of children and young people, including the underlying issues of poverty, child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, early marriage and pregnancies, and the consequences of that situation for the human development of the country, with the aim of reducing the exploitation of children and child slavery.[134] The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned about the absence of national data available on the prevalence of children living and working in the streets. It recommended that Ghana undertake an in-depth study on the root causes and scope of such phenomena and develop a national strategy and national plan of action to support children in street situations and to address socioeconomic disadvantages and other root causes of vulnerability of children in such situations, as well as the violence they sometimes faced, including at the hands of law enforcement officials.[135]

3. Persons with disabilities[136]

73. The Human Rights Committee noted with concern the stigmatization and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, which contributed to severe deficiencies in mental health-care facilities in Ghana.[137]

74. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was seriously concerned that children with disabilities were often exposed to degrading treatment, particularly in some prayer camps.[138]

75. The United Nations country team expressed its appreciation that the Government had launched in 2016 its inclusive education policy with a specific focus on children with disabilities.[139]

4. Minorities and indigenous peoples[140]

76. The United Nations country team stated that, in Ghana, as across Western Africa, it was increasingly difficult to ensure human rights protection of nomadic pastoralists, largely of Fulani ethnic origin. There were increasing incidents of conflict and violence between herders and farmers.[141]

5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons[142]

77. UNHCR expressed its concern regarding the existing four-year renewable residence permit, which did not provide effective legal solutions for refugees opting to remain in Ghana. It stressed the importance of seeking indefinite residence status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 2000 Immigration Act. Currently, there were legal, administrative and practical barriers that impeded the acquisition of nationality and indefinite residence status. UNHCR recommended that the Government waive the

requirement that a person hold a national passport as a prerequisite for obtaining indefinite residence status.[147]

78. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana expedite the revision of the legal refugee framework and enact legislation in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[148]

79. The Committee on Migrant Workers was concerned about the increasing number of expulsions of migrant workers and the absence of information regarding the possibility of challenging expulsion orders. The Committee recommended that Ghana provide updated information on the number of expulsions and the procedures used, and ensure that the minimum guarantees enshrined in the Convention on Migrant Workers were assured with regard to criminal or administrative charges against migrant workers and members of their families.[149]

80. UNHCR noted that the 1992 Refugee Act did not adequately reflect all the minimal asylum procedural safeguards to ensure fair refugee status determination procedures for asylum seekers. It urged Ghana to ensure a comprehensive review of the Act, in particular inserting provisions related to procedural safeguards for asylum seekers.[146] The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana review and amend the Act to ensure that the needs of asylum-seeking children were considered during the refugee status determination procedures. It also recommended that it conduct personal interviews in a child-appropriate manner, take into consideration specific procedural safeguards for unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children and seek technical assistance from UNHCR in that regard.[147]

81. The Committee on Migrant Workers noted with concern information on cases of violence, abductions and deaths in countries of transit used by Ghanaian migrant workers on their way to destination countries. It recommended that Ghana enter into agreements with the countries of employment and transit of Ghanaian migrant workers to better protect their rights and facilitate the provision of consular and other services.[148]

82. As the lack of a school canteens negatively affected attendance, learning achievement, concentration and behaviour, UNHCR commended the approval of refugee camp schools being included in the national Ghana School Feeding Programme as of January 2017. It encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to ensure that refugee children and asylum-seeking children enjoyed education.[149]

83. UNHCR indicated that inter-ethnic conflicts and violence due to disputes over natural resources and chieftaincy were the main causes of internal displacement in Ghana. In practice, the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons focused on material rights, through the provision of relief, without ensuring respect for political rights. The Kampala Convention, which had yet to be ratified by Ghana, was a legally binding regional instrument ensuring protection and assistance of internally displaced persons within the country. It contained an explicit provision on equality and non-discrimination and specifically obliged States parties to protect women and children from gender-based violence, including sexual slavery and trafficking in persons.[150]

6. Stateless persons

84. The United Nations country team indicated that Ghana had developed a national action plan to end statelessness that had been pending approval since February 2016.[151]

85. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Ghana prevent statelessness and guarantee the fundamental rights of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness through law and practice.[152]

86. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Ghana review the 2000 Citizenship Act and other legislation relating to nationality to bring them into line with international standards on prevention, reduction and protection of stateless children.[153]

Notes

[1] Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Ghana will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/GHIndex.aspx.
[2] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.1-123.7, 123.11, 125.1-125.5, 125.16, 125.50 and 125.86.
[3] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 20.
[4] United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Ghana, p. 5.
[5] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, para. 46.
[6] Ibid., para. 62.
[7] Ibid., para. 71.
[8] Ibid., para. 72.
[9] Ibid., para. 32.
[10] Country team submission, p. 10.
[11] UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Ghana, p. 5.
[12] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, para. 35.
[13] Ibid., para. 49.
[14] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, paras. 87, 101 (c) and 102 (a).
[15] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 76.
[16] UNHCR submission, p. 4.
[17] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 11.
[18] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.8-123.13, 124.1, 125.6-125.11, 125.16, 125.23-125.27, 125.44, 125.52-125.53, 125.59, 125.62-125.63, 125.84, 125.86-125.87, 125.89 and 125.91.
[19] Country team submission, p. 2.
[20] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.18, 123.23, 124.1-124.2, 124.8-124.9, 125.60-125.61, 125.71 and 125.75.
[21] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 29-30.
[22] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 38.
[23] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 20-21.
[24] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 13-14.
[25] Country team submission, p. 10. See also B. Orlandini and C. Adablah, "Ghana Common Country Assessment" (2016), p. 31. Available from http://gh.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/ghana/docs/Delivering%20as%20One/UNCT-GH-Ghana-CCA-2016.pdf.
[26] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 43-44.
[27] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.64-125.65, 125.83 and 125.91.
[28] See A/HRC/26/25/Add.5, para. 76 (a) and (g).
[29] Ibid., para. 80 (a)-(d).
[30] Ibid., para. 76 (h).
[31] Country team submission, p. 4.
[32] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.8, 123.11, 123.19-123.20, 123.22, 124.3-124.7, 125.1, 125.3-125.5, 125.15-125.18, 125.45, 125.59 and 125.90.
[33] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 19-20.
[34] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 101 (a)-(b).
[35] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 21-22.
[36] See A/HRC/31/57/Add.2, para. 76.
[37] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 25-26.
[38] Ibid.
[39] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 95 (b)-(c).
[40] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 30.
[41] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 100 (b) and (d).
[42] See A/HRC/31/57/Add.2, para. 76.
[43] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 27-28.
[44] Country team submission, p. 7.
[45] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, paras. 104 (g) and 105 (c).
[46] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 27.
[47] Ibid., paras. 28 (d).
[48] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.11, 123.21, 124.1, 124.3-124.5, 124.7-124.9, 125.6, 125.10, 125.20-125.21, 125.29-125.40, 125.47, 125.49-125.50, 125.52 and 125.57-

125.59.
[45] Country team submission, p. 4.
[46] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 96 (b) and (d).
[47] See A/HRC/31/57/Add.2, para. 76.
[48] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 96 (g).
[49] Ibid., para. 106 (c).
[50] Country team submission, p. 2.
[51] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 43-44.
[52] Country team submission, p. 3.
[53] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 45 (b).
[54] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 42.
[55] See A/HRC/26/25/Add.5, para. 77 (c).
[56] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, para. 15.
[57] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 23.
[58] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, paras. 98-99.
[59] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 69-70.
[60] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.12 and 125.62-125.63.
[61] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Ghana, paras. 18-19.
[62] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 20-21.
[63] Country team submission, p. 3.
[64] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 34-35.
[65] Ibid., paras. 36-37.
[66] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.5, 125.46-125.49, 125.51-125.52 and 125.60.
[67] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 45.
[68] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 86.
[69] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 28-29.
[70] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 67-68.
[71] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3242218.
[72] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 124.8-124.9.
[73] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 40-41.
[74] Ibid.
[75] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, paras. 110 and 113.
[76] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.6 and 125.65.
[77] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::::P13100_COMMENT_ID:3127001.
[78] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 124.8-124.9, 125.30, 125.40, 125.64-125.66, 125.68 and 125.82.
[79] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 29.
[80] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 34-35.
[81] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.66, 125.82 and 125.91.
[82] Country team submission, p. 6.
[83] Ibid., p. 7.
[84] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 38-39.
[85] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 55-56.
[86] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.45, 125.64, 125.66-125.74, 125.82 and 125.90.
[87] Country team submission, p. 7.
[88] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 51-52.
[89] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 36-37.
[90] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 23-24.
[91] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 36-37.
[92] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 49-50.
[93] Ibid.
[94] Country team submission, p. 7.
[95] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, para. 37.
[96] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 51-52.
[97] Ibid., paras. 53-54.
[98] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.14, 125.28, 125.55, 125.64, 125.74-125.83.
[99] Country team submission, p. 8.
[100] See UNESCO submission, paras. 15-17.

[96] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 97-98.
[97] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 32-33.
[98] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.5, 123.10, 123.16-123.18, 125.10-125.14, 125.19-125.45, 125.48, 125.67 and 125.78-125.79.
[99] Country team submission, p. 3.
[100] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, para. 13.
[101] See UNESCO submission, para. 13.
[102] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 109.
[103] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 11-12.
[104] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 26-27.
[105] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 17-18.
[106] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 40-41.
[107] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, paras. 107-108.
[108] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 26-27.
[109] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 111.
[110] See CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7, paras. 24-25.
[111] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 35-38.
[112] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.1-123.5, 123.17, 123.20, 123.23, 124.7, 125.1-125.2, 125.10, 125.23, 125.27-125.28, 125.48-125.56, 125.59-125.61 and 125.80.
[113] Country team submission, p. 3.
[114] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 35-36.
[115] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 35-36.
[116] See A/HRC/25/60/Add.1, para. 102 (b)-(c).
[117] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, para. 36.
[118] Ibid., paras. 39-40.
[119] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 108.
[120] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 63-64.
[121] Ibid., paras. 61-62.
[122] See A/HRC/26/25/Add.5, para. 81 (c)-(d).
[123] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID:3242590[LO and www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3247758.
[124] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 32.
[125] See A/HRC/27/53/Add.3, para. 87.
[126] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 65-66.
[127] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.2 and 125.64-125.90.
[128] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 27.
[129] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 25-26.
[130] Country team submission, p. 9.
[131] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/22/6, para. 124.2.
[132] Country team submission, p. 9.
[133] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/22/6, para. 124.2.
[134] UNHCR submission, p. 4.
[135] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 34.
[136] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 24-25.
[137] UNHCR submission, p. 5.
[138] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, paras. 59-60.
[139] See CMW/C/GHA/CO/1, paras. 40-41.
[140] UNHCR submission, pp. 2-3.
[141] Ibid., p. 4.
[142] Country team submission, p. 10.
[143] See CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 34.
[144] See CRC/C/GHA/CO/3-5, para. 52.